

JAFCO Mother's Day Luncheon benefits children



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Jewish Adoption and Family Care Options' Mother's Day Luncheon raised more than \$175,000 for abused and neglected children, as well as those with developmental disabilities the Sunrise-based organization serves throughout South Florida.

JAFCO's annual luncheon took place in-person with 50 percent capacity and was also live-streamed this year. More than 125 people attended the event at the organization's Children's Ability Center's Illuminate Ballroom in Sunrise.

During the program, Arlene Zilker, who has been a JAFCO supporter for more than 13 years and is widely known throughout the organization as the "Godparent Fairy Godmother," was honored as 2021 Woman of the Year.

"Arlene is the friend or mother or aunt that we all wish we had," said Sarah Franco, the organization's executive director, in a news release. "Her smile, her voice and her love and respect for everyone she knows, new people she just met, for JAFCO's mission and of course for the children, is so genuine and unique in the world."

The organization also welcomed four new members into the Godparent Circle and Circle of Hope during the event. These are donors who pledge to spiritually adopt all the children the organization serves in its group home, emergency shelter, family preservation and developmental disability programs.

The luncheon ended with special musical guest [Eden Gross](#), a 10-year-old performer who recently released two songs on online music platforms and pledged a percentage of her sales to the organization.

Gayle Lichtman chaired this year's event, Marci Langley and Chris Miller served as honorary chairs and Dr. Heidi Schaeffer was the grand benefactor.

Visit jafco.org or contact Shelli Gold at 954-315-8671 or shelli@jafco.org for more information on the organization.